

Land Acquisition Committee
Minutes of Meeting
August 11, 2015
Lower Level Conference Room
Town Hall – 10 Mudge Way, Bedford, MA

PRESENT: Don Cullis, Chair; Lori Eggert; Daniel Puffer; William Speciale; Richard Torti
Caroline Fedele
Elizabeth Bagdonas, Conservation Administrator

ABSENT: Tom Mulligan

At 7:30 pm a motion was made by Mr. Cullis and seconded by Mr. Speciale to call the meeting to order; the motion passed 6-0-0.

A motion was made by Mr. Cullis and seconded by Mr. Speciale to approve the minutes of May 21, 2015; the motion passed 3-0-2, with Ms. Eggert and Ms. Fedele abstaining.

A motion was made by Ms. Eggert and seconded by Mr. Cullis to approve the minutes of June 30, 2015A; the motion passed 5-0-1, with Ms. Fedele abstaining.

Mr. Cullis began the discussion of the agenda items by stating that an approach to Harvard University regarding the Concord Field Station property had not yet been made. A discussion followed on how to contact the organization and what to emphasize. Ms. Eggert will participate in this effort with Mr. Torti. Ms. Fedele advised to keep any conversation informal, with a focus on communication rather than anything specific. Mr. Speciale reminded the group that the authority of the director was not known. Mr. Cullis agreed that the discussion should be general at this point.

With respect to the Carlisle Road parcels, Mr. Speciale offered to draft a letter of interest.

Regarding the proposed Evergreen Avenue development, Ms. Bagdonas stated that she had written a letter to the Planning Board. Ms. Fedele suggested having someone go in to see the Planning Board and either go to a meeting and/or write a letter. Mr. Speciale will make this contact.

Mr. Cullis then proceeded to discuss the metrics he had developed for the athletic field analysis. The new table he had designed is for open space, or “charter” needs. He suggested contacting other committees to see how they would weigh various values, thinking that goals could be combined. Ms. Fedele asked what committees he was thinking of. He responded that the Transportation Advisory, Bicycle and several housing committees should be consulted. Discussion followed on how to make approaches and parcel the contacts out between the members; the various committees should be able to steer Land Acquisition in the right direction. Similar groups could be combined and approached together. There followed some discussion on the potential for including dog parks in this effort.

Mr. Cullis stated that his recent meeting with the Selectmen would dovetail with this discussion. He then made a motion for the committee to enter into Executive Session, for the reason that discussion of certain acquisition matters in open session might be detrimental to the negotiating position of the Town, and not to return to Regular Session. Ms. Fedele pointed out that the discussion would include the Selectmen's meeting with Mr. Cullis, which was held in Executive Session.

Prior to further action on this motion, a motion was made by Ms. Eggert to defer the Election of Officers until the spring of 2016. The motion was seconded by Mr. Speciale and passed 6-0-0. Ms. Fedele then left the meeting.

Mr. Cullis made the motion again to enter into Executive Session, not to return to Regular Session; the motion was seconded by Ms. Eggert and passed as follows: Ms. Eggert, aye; Mr. Puffer, aye; Mr. Torti, aye, Mr. Speciale, aye; Mr. Cullis, aye.

The meeting was adjourned within the Executive Session at 9:30 pm.

Minutes prepared by Elizabeth Bagdonas.

Minutes approved at the meeting of September 29, 2015.